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On the Relief of Oregon

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 701, 45th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1879)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 4, 1879.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SPENCER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 589.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 589) to reimburse the State of Oregon for moneys paid by said State in the suppression of Indian hostilities during the Modoc war, in the years 1872 and 1873, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

By the act of June 18, 1874 (U. S. Statutes at Large, vol. 18, page 83), the "Secretary of War was authorized and required to ascertain or cause to be ascertained the amount of expenses claimed to be necessarily incurred by the States of Oregon and California, or the citizens thereof, for arms, ammunition, supplies, transportation, and services of the volunteer forces in suppression of Indian hostilities in said States in the years 1872 and 1873, and report the same to Congress at the next session, together with the names of persons who claim to be entitled to relief, together with a statement of the facts and sums upon which such report may be based."

This duty, in obedience to the act quoted, was duly performed by the Secretary of War, who, on December 15, 1874, transmitted to the House of Representatives his report thereupon, as more fully appears in Executive Document No. 45, Forty-third Congress, second session, by which it appears to have been ascertained that the sum of \$70,268.08 was due the State of Oregon and \$4,441.33 due the State of California on this account. This bill is doubtless intended to secure to the State of Oregon payment of the amount found, upon examination under the law quoted, to be due her.

The following is the report of the House Committee on Military Affairs, first session, Forty-fourth Congress, on this matter:

[House Report No. 297, Forty-fourth Congress, first session.]

Mr. COOK, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following report, to accompany bill H. R. 147:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No 147, to authorize the Secretary of War to pay the expenses of the State of Oregon and citizens of California in suppressing Indian hostilities in the States of Oregon and California, in the years 1872 and 1873, beg leave to report:

That by reference to the report of the Secretary of War, made to the House of Representatives December 15, 1874, it appears that Inspector-General James A. Hardie was ordered to Oregon and California to investigate and report upon the claims due the

States of California and Oregon and citizens thereof; that the Inspector-General, James A. Hardie, visited these States, and, after a thorough investigation of the facts, reported the sum of \$70,268.80 due the State of Oregon, and the sum of \$4,441.33 due the citizens of California. The committee, therefore, believing the above amounts just and true, and that the expense was properly incurred in defending the lives and property of the people of those States, recommend the passage of the bill, with the amendment, inserting in second and third lines the sum of \$70,268.80, and in sixth and seventh lines the amount of \$4,441.33.

An examination of the executive document referred to shows that the duty enjoined by the act of June 18, 1874, was very thoroughly performed by Inspector-General James A. Hardie, now deceased. This officer appears to have carefully examined each and every claim, and to have only allowed those which, in his judgment, were established as proper charges against the government. The amount claimed by the State of Oregon was \$132,855.20, of which General Hardie passes and recommends the payment of but \$70,268.08

Your committee are of opinion that the act of Congress of June 18, 1874, has been justly and fairly complied with, and that the sum so found due the State of Oregon ought to be paid. They, therefore, report the bill back amended so as to authorize the payment only of \$70,268.08, the amount reported to be due, in lieu of \$131,000 specified in the bill, and recommend passage of the same as amended.